APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1163 asked by Sri K. Aranganathan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 8th March 1955, page 94 supra.]

Steps taken by the Government to check, prevent and cure the jassid attack on paddy crop.

The Government cannot obviously undertake measures entirely at their own cost for tackling the crop diseases in the field of the ryots. The Government Agricultural Department can only advise and indicate the methods and assist the ryots to check and cure the disease. The following steps are taken to assist the ryots in this regard :—

During the cropping season of paddy a vigilant watch is kept up by the Plant Protection staff in all paddy tracts and as soon as the infestation of the pest is noticed, prompt remedial measures are taken to keep the pest under control. Adequate stocks of pesticides and other chemicals are maintained in all Agricultural Depots well in advance of the season. In cases of heavy infestation, the Collector of the concerned district is addressed by the District Agricultural Officer intimating him of the serious nature of the pest infestation so that he may, if he considers it necessary, declare the area as a "Pest affected area" with the approval of the Director of Agriculture. All the cultivators in an area which is so declared as a pest affected area are supplied with the requisite pesticides at a concessional rate which is only 50 per cent of the normal rate. The Crop and Plant Protection Officer (Entomology), Coimbatore, will immediately survey the area to guage the virulence of the pest and with the assistance of the Plant Protection Assistants and other Departmental staff in the district, large scale spraying and dusting campaigns are organised to fight the pest. When the situation warrants, the pesticides and spraying or dusting equipment will be pooled from neighbouring areas to combat the trouble. But in spite of all endeavours owing to the prevalence of extremely favourable weather conditions for the rapid multiplication of pest, serious attacks due to jassids occur. Weekly forecasts of pests including the jassid attack on paddy are sent to the Director of Information and Publicity and Station Directors, All-India Radio Stations, for giving wide publicity and the ryots are advised to take prompt measures of control advocated by the Agricultural Department.

Experiments conducted in respect of control of jassid pest and the results thereof.

The jassid (Nephotettix bipunctatus F) is the green spotted bug, small in size, widespread and appearing often in large numbers on young paddy crop. The white jassid (Tettigoniella spectra) slightly bigger in size, is also noticed but not in pest form. Hand netting and light traps are mechanical methods of control advocated in the past. Of late, since 1948, this insect is noted in increasing numbers in several parts of the State, in successive

crops, assuming epidemic form. Experiments on insecticidal methods of control were started in 1948 and pursued for some years at the Agricultural Research Institute, Coimbatore. The following results have been arrived at from the experiments conducted :—

The paddy jassid is more virulent in well irrigated tracts having a preference to young crops under one or two months. DDT either as spray or dust has a spectacular effect. Between the two forms, the spray has been found to be cheaper, i.e., two lb. of "Guesarol 550" in suspension in 100 gallons of water can be used to treat an acre and the cost of such treatment works out to Rs. 6. DDT emulsion in kerosene though effective is costly. The preference of the pest to small patches of newly transplanted paddy under well irrigation affords a vulnerable point for treatment and it is easy to tackle these limited areas promptly and effectively. Where there is combined infestation by green and white jassids and another fulgorid bug (Nilaparvata lugens) a mixture of DDT 5 per cent and BHC 10 per cent dust in equal proportions has been found to be effective.

Cheap and effective treatment recommended by the Agricultural Department for the treatment of the jassid pest.

The cheapest and most effective method suggested to ryots for eradication and prevention of jassid attack on paddy crops is dusting with DDT 5 per cent dust at the rate of 15 to 20 lb. per acre and spraying DDT 50 per cent in wettable form at 1 lb. in 50 gallons of water at the rate of 80 to 100 gallons spray fluid per acre.

Appendix II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1184 asked by Sri S. Ramalingam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 8th March 1955, page 111 supra.]

The following are the terms of reference to the Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the District Revenue Administration :—

(1) A thorough review of the existing set-up in the Collector's office with special reference to devising ways and means of providing such measure of relief to the District Collector as to enable him to function effectively as the head of the district responsible for the entire field of developmental activity under his charge.

(2) How best to strengthen and tone up the efficiency of Taluk offices which form the pivot of Revenue Administration, and also to make the Divisional Officer an effective link between the Tahsildar on the one hand and the District Collector on the other both in the field of Revenue Administration as also developmental work.